

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 16, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, the Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

We are writing to you today to urge House Democrats to join with the House Republicans' one-year earmark moratorium and use the savings to pay down our national debt.

America's fiscal condition is reaching a crisis point. Spending and debt are growing beyond our control. Our national debt has reached a record \$12.5 trillion, and under current Administration projections, it is on course to exceed the size of America's economy by 2012. The time to rein in spending is long past due. Out-of-control spending and earmark controversies within both parties have undermined public confidence in government. Americans do not believe Washington is listening to them and their demand for fiscal sanity. This has to change.

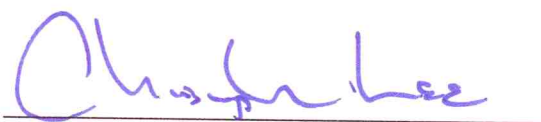
The decision by House Republicans to enact a one-year moratorium on appropriations earmark requests is a rare opportunity to change the culture of Washington spending and fundamentally reform how Congress spends taxpayer money. We invite House Democrats to join with us in this moratorium and together show the American people we are committed to real spending reform.

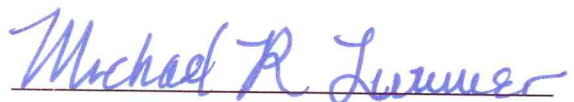
In any case, it is not enough to simply stop seeking appropriations projects for local priorities only to see those tax dollars spent elsewhere.

We therefore respectfully request that funds that would have gone toward Republicans' congressionally directed spending projects instead be used to pay down our national debt. In fiscal year 2010, appropriations projects for members of both parties cost nearly \$16 billion, according to the watchdog group Taxpayers for Common Sense. Should the Democratic Caucus choose to join us in a one-year earmark moratorium, it is imperative that those savings also be used towards debt reduction.

We hope to work with you on whatever legislative actions may be necessary to use saved appropriations funds to pay down our dangerous and growing national debt.

Sincerely,

  
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